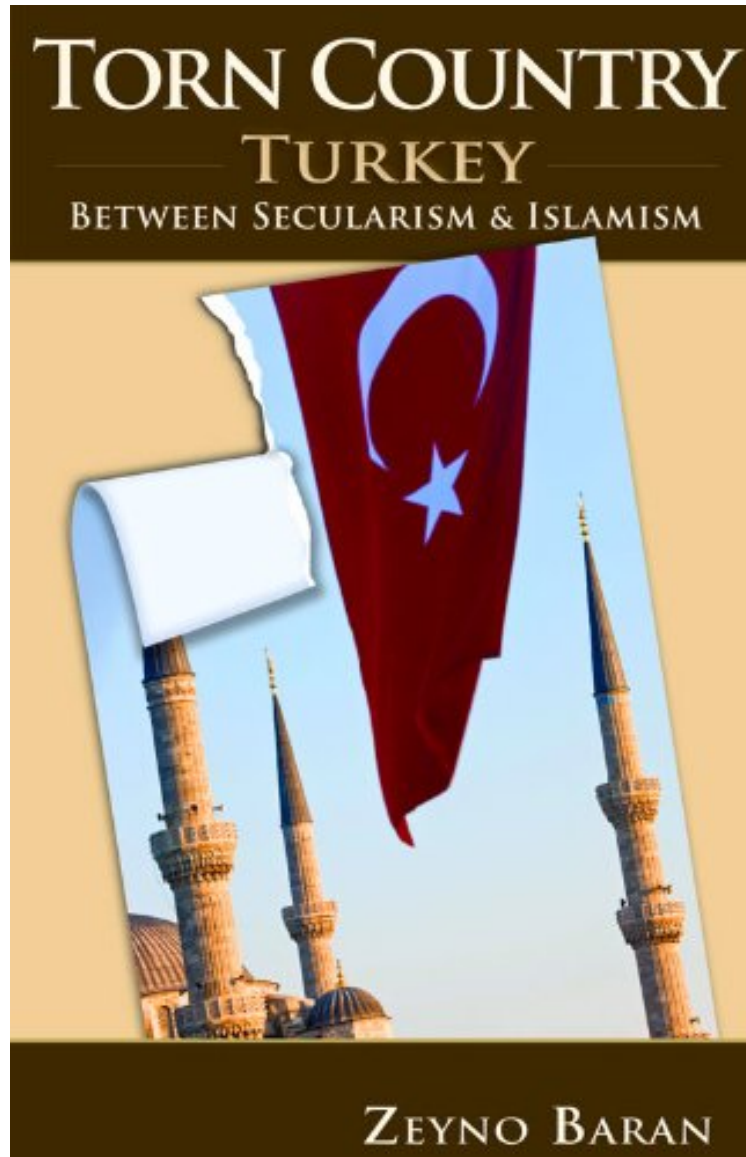


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Torn Country: Turkey between Secularism and Islamism (Hoover Institution Press Publication)

Zeyno Baran

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Zeyno Baran : Torn Country: Turkey between Secularism and Islamism (Hoover Institution Press Publication) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Torn Country: Turkey between Secularism and Islamism (Hoover Institution Press Publication):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By martin Excellent summary of modern and current-day

Turkey. Very well written. Should be widely read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ivan Zapryanov Great!

Zeyno Baran examines the intense struggle between Turkey's secularists and Islamists in their most recent battles over their country's destination. Looking into the fate of both Turkey's secularism and its democratic experiment, she shows that, for all the flaws of its political journey, the modern Turkish state has managed to maintain an essential separation between religion and the political realm—a separation that is now in jeopardy.

From the Inside Flap The dawn of the cold war in the 1950s nudged Turkey out of twenty-five years of isolation and into partnership with the Euro-Atlantic alliance. For the next half century, Turkey viewed NATO as the cornerstone of its national security, while Washington and its NATO allies viewed Turkey as a key partner in transatlantic security. Given this history of fifty years of Turkey-NATO partnership and Western support for the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government, the plummeting popularity of the United States and Euro-Atlantic structures during the period of the AKP government is surprising even shocking. And while the approval ratings of the United States, NATO, and the European Union were decreasing dramatically among Turks, the Iranian theocracy next door was becoming more popular. Is the anti-Westernism that has emerged during AKP governance a passing trend or a sign of a cultural and political transformation in Turkey, NATO's only Muslim member? In *Torn Country*, Zeyno Baran examines in detail the ongoing struggle between Turkey's Islamist and secular factions. She shows how, after the formation of a new secular state in 1923 from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, the tensions in the Turkish identity between Islam's private and public roles, and between Turkey's Eastern traditions and its place in the West, have been playing out. Baran reveals how Islamists who came to power via the ballot box have introduced great uncertainty into Turkey's political life: although they profess adherence to the basic principles of Turkish republicanism, they increasingly look like committed and skilled ideologues who have embarked on a major reorientation of the country's policies and practices at home and abroad. The next few years, the author explains, will be decisive in determining the direction of the country, as Turkish voters ponder whether to preserve, refresh, or replace the secular democratic system that has defined their national identity since 1923. At the forefront of such deliberations will be the debate that has endured in Turkey for decades: Should Islam dominate social life or be confined to the privacy of the individual believer?